AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace Paragraph [0001] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0001] The invention relates to a closing cone for screwing screw closures onto containers, particularly bottles, in accordance with the ~~preamble of claim 1~~ present disclosure.

Please replace Paragraph [0004] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0004] To reach this objective, we propose a closing cone presenting the features ~~indicated in claim 1~~ in accordance with the present teachings.

Please replace Paragraph [0030] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0030] Whereas the torque in current closing cones is determined exclusively by friction forces, here, on the one hand, the torque is predetermined by the holding forces of segments 17 of pick ring 5 and, on the other, by friction ring [[35]] 39. The latter does not necessarily have to be provided, but it does increase the applicable torque.

Please replace Paragraph [0043] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0043] In the embodiment represented here, pick ring 5 is not completely accommodated in inner space 7 enclosed by receiving part 3. Base 29 of pick ring 5 has

a first section 31 which has an essentially cylindrical peripheral surface and protrudes downward through a ~~recess~~ opening 59 in an end ring 55 terminating inner space 7 in the downward direction. Moreover, base 29 encloses a second section 33 which has a conical outer surface for the purpose of creating a cone-taper coupling of actuation system 65, said surface tapering off from bottom upward and interacting with the conical inner surface 67 provided on the inside of jacket 11 of body 9 of receiving part 3.

Please replace Paragraph [0044] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0044] Second section 33 protrudes outward over the cylindrical outer surface of first section 31 giving rise to an arresting shoulder [[77]] 76 with which at the top pick ring 5 rests on end ring 55, said pick ring 5 thus being held securely in inner space 7 of receiving part 3.

Please replace Paragraph [0050] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0050] It is clear from the explanations that the functioning of closing cone 1' is the same as that of closing cone 1 which was explained in connection with FIGS. 1 to 3: Pick ring 5 is provided with movable segments 17 held together by a spring ~~system~~ unit 75 and serving the purpose of picking up a screw closure. When the screw closure is placed on a container and screwed on with a compressive force, pick ring 5 is displaced upward within receiving part 3 and against the resetting force of a resetting device 71 so that through the cone-taper coupling of actuation system 65 the movable segments are

pressed with a force acting against the screw closure and in the direction of central axis 21. At the same time, friction ring 39 is pressed against the top side of the closure. Thus, there are two elements exerting a torque onto a screw closure when said screw closure is screwed or applied onto a container. Optionally, friction ring 39 may be omitted. Preferably, however, said ring is provided for the purpose of applying the desired closing torque.

Please replace Paragraph [0053] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0053] FIG. 5 shows an inclined perspective view of closing cone 1' from above. Equal parts are indicated by the same reference numerals, the reader therefore being referred to the description for FIG. 4. The drawing clearly shows the smooth outer shape of closing cone 1' imparted by coupling nut 89 which on its underside encloses engaging grooves 91. Correspondingly, receiving part 3 is provided on its outside with engagement grooves 93 to enable relative rotation between coupling nut [[9]] 89 and receiving part 3. Bottom 13 of receiving part 3 contains four holes 95 provided with an inner thread into which screws 81 engage. At the bottom, one can see segments 17 of pick ring 5 separated by a slit 19.